

Rafidah: Forget about Mahathir

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KUALA LUMPUR: Efforts to mend fences with former premier Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad would be a waste of time, said Wanita Umno chief Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz.

"It is for the Prime Minister to decide; but if you ask me, I would say, forget it because he (Dr Mahathir) not only attacked the party and the Government but also talked about the Prime Minister needing to be replaced, and that cannot be tolerated. He has crossed the line," she said.

Rafidah also said that she would not forgive her former mentor for the accusations he had made against her over the Approved Permits issue.

"I will never forgive him for accusing me of all kinds of things. I cannot take it any more, I have reached boiling point," she said.

"In Islam, *fitnah* (slander) is worse than murder. It's better to murder me. Then, I would be dead and gone. Instead, what he says comes out in every media all over the world.

"I do not accept his accusations against me and I don't know where he gets his information. He has been misguided."

The International Trade and Industry Minister said Umno should forget about trying to mend fences with Dr Mahathir or even listening to his criticisms.

"I say, forget it. He not only had a private meeting with the Prime Minister, he taped it, then held two press conferences. Where does that leave us, especially the accusations made against me? And he goes and tells the media that I should be

resigning," she added.

Rafidah said this was not the time for party members to be double-faced or to sit on the fence.

"We have no sides in Umno and the present Umno is led by (Datuk Seri) Abdullah Ahmad Badawi. No Umno member, whether a past president or past prime minister has the right to hold sway over three million members who just want unity, and for the present leadership to lead the Barisan Nasional and the country."

She said that when Dr Mahathir retired, she thought he would play a guiding role.

"His statement that we are a half-past-six government is giving the country a bad image."

However, she said she would not stop delegates to the Wanita Umno assembly starting on Tuesday from debating the "Tun issue".